Import of Video and Still Cameras

*257. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:†

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Video and Still Cameras import is banned since 1957 or continues to remain in "restricted list";

(b) whether these Cameras are being smuggled and are available in market;

(c) whether import of professional Camera is banned, while import of Roil Films, both colour and black and white is allowed under OGL;

(d) what is the procedure of Video Still Cameras import, being allowed to accredited photographers and the press;

(e) what is the time taken for clearance of such import applications;

(f) the reasons for which these Cameras which are being used for educational purposes continues to be banned when liberalisation has taken place on a larger scale;

(g) what is the number of these Cameras permitted for import during the last three years and what is the custom duty on them;

(h) whether Government are considering to strike down these Cameras from "restricted" list; and

(i) wheher it is a fact that these type of Cameras are not produced in our country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (i) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.

STATEMENT

Under the current Export & Import Policy 1992-97, import of cameras is allowed against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf. Photographic Studio holding a valid registration under the Shop and Establishment Act may import a camera once in five years against a specific licence. The following categories are allowed to import camera(s) without a licence subject to specified conditions :

(i) Accredited cameramen.

(ii) Accredited correspondents of foreign broadcasting or television organisations.

(iii) Foreign news agencies or Foreign Newspapers.

Special Professional grade audio-video studio equipment can also be imported freely and without a licence.

Available reports do not indicate large scale smuggling of Video and Still Cameras. Reports indicate that Video and still Cameras imported as passenger baggage are sold in the market in piecemeal.

Still and Photographic Camera of 35mm and 110mm and Professional Video Cameras are being manufactured in the country by a few companies.

Import of cameras for educational purposes is not banned and educational institutions are allowed import against import licences. There is no proposal at present to remove the cameras from the Restricted List of Imports.

Import of verious types of cameras during the last three years as per available statistics, has been as under :—

| Year | Number |
|---|---|
| 1990-91 | 4473 |
| 1991-92 | 154 |
| 1992-93 | 1668 |

Video Cameras and Photographic cameras are liable to Customs duty at the rate of 131.25 *ad-valorem* and 140.5 per cent *ad-valorem* respectively. However, there is no duty in case of import of photographic camera by an Accredited Press Cameraman. In case of import of 'photographic equipment' by an Accredited News Agency, the duty applicable is at the rate of 25 per cent *ad-valorem*.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : My question is that this item is in the banned list since 4 decades. Cameras have an educative value. And smuggling is going on because you have imposed, for no reason, a ban on the import of these educative items. Therefore, I would like to know as to when the ban is going to be lifted. And why don't you consider this as part of literary activities ?

उपसभापति : महता जी आप इतना लम्बा सवाल क्यों पूछते हैं ?

Question Hour is over.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Kandla Export Processing Zone

*241. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to expand the Kandla Export Processing Zone;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to provide basic facilities to investors at the Kandla Free Trade Export Processing Zone, particularly power, water supply and single window clearance;

(c) the total number of units registered in the said zone so far; and

(d) the total value of exports from the zone during the year 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 till date ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Kandla Free Trade Zone offers basic infrastructural facilities such as power and water supply, drainage and roads in addition to developed plots and built up factory premises. The Zone also provides single window clearance for applications to set up units and in matters such as import of additional capital goods and broad banding of production.

(c) and (d) At present, 156 units hold valid approvals in the Kandla Zone. The total exports from the Zone during 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given below :

(Rs. crores)

| Year | Value of Exports |
|---|---|
| 1990-91 | 456.55 |
| 1991-92 | 427.18 |
| 1992-93 | 167.21 |
| 1993-94 (Apr.-Nov.) | 155.69 |

### अवैध खानों में कार्यरत मजदूरों की मृत्यु

*244. श्री ईश दत्त यादव : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अवैध खानों में कार्यरत कई मजदूरों की मृत्यु होने के कुछ मामले हाल में सरकार के ध्यान में आये हैं ?

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान मृत्यु के ऐसे मामलों का राज्यवार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार ने ठीक प्रकार से कार्यवाही न किये जाने पर कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की है; और उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत कुमार पांजा) : (क) और (ख) : कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड ने सूचित किया कि कोयला कंपनियों द्वारा गैर-कानूनी रूप से उत्खनन की जाने वाली खानों में श्रमिकों की हुई मृत्यु के संबंध में कोई ब्यौरा नहीं रखा जाता है। अतः इस संबंध में सूचना उपलब्ध नहीं है।

(ग) गैर-कानूनी रूप से किए जा रहे खनन को रोकने तथा दोषी व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाई किया जाना संबद्ध राज्य सरकार का प्राथमिक दायित्व है। किंतु गैर-कानूनी खनन को रोकने के